News release

Surrey man shines in national competition

5 September 2002

Robin Lermitte, aged 40 from Guildford in Surrey, was chosen from thousands of entrants in a nationwide search for a weather presenter by ITV's This Morning. He wins a year's contract to join the Met Office's national TV weather presenting team, starting later this year.

The competition ran over six weeks with contestants battling it out in three rounds. They were tested on how they would cope with the infamous This Morning weather map in Liverpool's Albert Dock, as well as managing a live report on location from a seaside resort and - the ultimate test - presenting a live forecast in the studio.

A househusband for the last three years, Lermitte was born in Surrey and began work as an actor in 1983, playing parts in a variety of television dramas and soaps.

Lermitte said: "I was really surprised to win. I still can't believe I will be seen by millions of people every time I am on TV. I am a trained actor so I think that might have helped when I had to present live in the heats. I was still very nervous though - there's a lot of information to remember."

The competition was judged by weather presenter Siân Lloyd, Met Office Controller of Media Presentations Rex Roskilly and Talent Scout Jon Roseman. The shortlist of five was then put to a public vote.

Siân said: "Robin was brilliant. He has both the character and screen presence to become a great weather presenter. But it's not just about looks. Robin will have to deal with a lot of information, from scripts to the sequence of graphics, so the training he has with the Met Office will be invaluable."

Lermitte has now been given a Met Office contract and is going through an intensive training schedule, involving studio training to refine his presentation skills, plus a course in meteorology at the Met Office. Robin will then make his ITV weather team debut in early September.

Notes:

You can send an electronic postcard with a picture of your favourite weather presenter from our Virtual Innovation Centre.

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